GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1429
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
POOR QUALITY OF PDS RICE IN KARNATAKA
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice supplied `Under Relaxed Specification` (URS) to Karnataka during1997-98 and 1998-99 was of a very low quality, discoloured broken and there were no takens for that rice in wholesale depots and fair price shops in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith corrective measures initiated by the Union Government;

(c) whether the Government has issued any instructions not to supply such low quality of rice to States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THEMINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI S CHAUHAN)

(a) No Sir. The rice procured under relaxed specifications (URS rice)during 1997-98 and 1998-99 and supplied to Karnataka was conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA)norms. However, the State Government of Karnataka had shown reluctance in accepting these rice stocks.

(b) The relaxations in the uniform specifications of rice during 1997-98 and 1998-99 were extended as the paddy crop during these two years was several affected by unseasonal rains. The uniform specifications of rice were not relaxed during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(c) & (d) : The matter was examined in the Ministry and instructions were issued to the Food Corporation of India not to supply URS rice stocks of 1997-98 and 1998-99 to any of the States, including Karnataka, under TPDS.